

record mediums storing digital data. In connection with the latter case, music data stored in CDs (compact disks) on the market can be freely copied in principle into magneto-optical disks (e.g., MDs) as long as the duplication is only for the personal use. However, a personal user
5 performing digital recording or the like indirectly pays predetermined amounts in prices of the digital recording device itself and the medium as guaranty moneys to a copyright holder.

However, the music data is digital data, which does not cause deterioration of information when it is copied as digital signals from a CD
10 to an MD. Therefore, for the copyright protection, such structures are employed that the music information cannot be copied as digital data from the recordable MD to another music data.

Under present circumstances, therefore, digital data can be freely copied from a CD to an MD, i.e., from a master of digital record medium to
15 a slave, but cannot be copied from a recordable MD to another MD.

In view of the above, the public distribution itself of the music data and image data over the digital information communication network is restricted by the public transmission right of the copyright holder, and therefore sufficient measures must be taken for the copyright protection.

For the above case, it is naturally necessary to inhibit such an act
20 that a user, who is not originally authorized, receives copyrighted data distributed to the public over the information communication network. Further, it is necessary to inhibit such an act that copyrighted data, which was once received by an authorized user, is further duplicated without
25 authorization.

Disclosure of the Invention

An object of the invention is to provide an information distribution system for distributing copyrighted data over an information network such
30 a cellular phone network, and particularly an information distribution system, in which only users having proper access rights can receive such information.

Another object of the invention is to provide an information